



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

For Immediate Release:
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Media Update #4: Technical Assessment Progress

Army brief on evaluation postponed *Meeting to be rescheduled*

WHAT: The interim analysis briefing scheduled for Feb. 22, 2005, by the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency technical assessment team to Department of Defense officials was postponed due to a last minute scheduling conflict at DoD. The informal presentation was to provide DoD a status on the team's progress in assessing alternatives to achieve 100 percent destruction of the nation's chemical weapons stockpile by 2012.

At this time, a new date has yet to be determined. This progress report will be given to the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Chemical Demilitarization and Threat Reduction, who signed the Jan. 10, 2005, memo directing the Army to conduct the assessment.

WHEN: Originally, the Army received its direction in a memo, signed Jan. 10, 2005, from the Department of Defense. That memo established reporting parameters as progress moves toward a final reporting date of March 21, 2005, to Mr. Michael W. Wynne, Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology & Logistics). At this point, the Army technical assessment team continues progress toward meeting that March deadline.

WHO: Mr. Kevin P. Duvall, CMA's acting director of its Cooperative Threat Reduction Support Directorate, remains the lead for the technical assessment.

For more information,
contact the
Chemical Materials
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www.cma.army.mil

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CMA COMMENT: CMA Technical Lead Kevin P. Duvall said, "No make up date has been determined at this time. Once a date has been finalized, we will announce it. Our intent is to provide the Defense Department with a status report and details on the options we are reviewing. Our main objective is to receive further guidance from the Defense Department regarding what parts of our assessment are viable, what parts are not, and just what direction the assessment should take as we move forward."

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS: Components that were listed in the Media Update #3 released Feb. 17, 2005 remain current. Please consult with that release for current listing. You may view the update on the CMA Web site at www.cma.army.mil

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: As of Feb. 16, 2005, chemical weapons disposal operations in Utah, Maryland, Alabama, Oregon, and on Johnston Island have resulted in the safe destruction of more than 35 percent of the nation's declared chemical weapons stockpile involving 42 percent of originally declared munitions. Aberdeen Proving Ground is the first of eight U.S. Army stockpile sites in the continental United States to have emptied its stockpile storage area, eliminating the risk the stored agent posed to surrounding communities during the past six decades. Disposal operations are set to begin in Arkansas and Indiana in the next couple of months.

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The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency is responsible for safely storing and eliminating the United States' aging chemical weapons and agent stockpiles and for the safe elimination of recovered chemical materiel.

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